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September 12, 2001

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To: CBA Home and Community Support Service (HCSS) Agencies

Subject: Long Term Care (LTC)
Information Letter No. 01-16
State Fiscal Year 2002 Contract Changes for Distance Learning Module:
Fraud / Abuse Prevention and T.I.L.E. Certification

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (Commission) is the single state agency designated to administer Medicaid in the state of Texas and the agency responsible for the investigation of fraud in the provision of health and human services, including the Texas Medicaid program. The Commission is also the agency responsible for the implementation of a Case Mix Review process for providers of long-term care in an institutionalized setting and for nurses and providers associated with the Community Based Alternative Waiver Program (CBA).

Texas implements its Case Mix Review Process through the Texas Index of Level of Effort (T.I.L.E.) assessment process. It is a requirement that those providers of provider staff who complete an assessment using the T.I.L.E. process be certified by the Commission as having the required skills and knowledge of the process. Such certification is obtained through the T.I.L.E. training module.

In addition to the T.I.L.E. requirement, the 75th Texas Legislature, 1997, mandated that health and human services providers, and their employees, receive training on how to prevent, detect, and report fraud, abuse, or waste in health and human services programs and, specifically, the Medicaid program. The Commission incorporated this requirement into the T.I.L.E. training course to minimize cost for providers.

Originally the T.I.L.E. training was presented in a traditional, classroom setting, seminar format that required providers and provider staff be away from their primary duties for a minimum of 8 hours for the initial training and 4 hours for the refresher course.

In state fiscal year 2000, the Commission developed additional avenues to minimize costs to providers while continuing to provide quality education and meet the mandates of state law. In coordination with Southwest Texas State University (SWTSU), the Commission developed a long-distance learning program to include a correspondence course and an on-line Web-based training module for both the **fraud and abuse prevention program** and the **T.I.L.E.** training course. The correspondence course became available on July 15, 2000 and on-line training on September 5, 2001. Access to both methods of delivery is available via the HHSC Web site and is offered at no cost to the student. Students and/or facilities that do not have access to the HHSC Web site may request a copy of the correspondence course by writing to the SWT address included in this letter.

Both training programs are offered free, although students who do not pass the required proficiency test on their first submission or who do not complete the course within 90 days, must pay a fee of \$25 for subsequent enrollments. Students may also obtain continuing education credits through SWTSU.

Effective September 1, 2001, SWTSU will transfer maintenance of this project to their Continuing Education Department. you may continue to access information on the training program through the Commission Web site, at <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us>. After reaching the Commission's home page, select the "Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Prevention" link and once there, select the on-line registration option by the SWT Icon. you may also request information at:

**Southwest Texas State University
Continuing Education
601 University Drive
San Marcos, Texas 78666**

Phone numbers are:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Correspondence Course | (512) 245-2507 or (512) 482-3280 |
| On-Line Training | (512) 245-3150 |

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Please feel free to contact Teresa B. Habel, Director of Education and Staff Development, Health and Human Services Commission at (512) 482-3276 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

signature on file

Becky Beechinor
Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Long Term Care Services

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